

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 INT-08 COME-00 SCEM-02 TRSE-00

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P 270800Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1394

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, AS
SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM STOCKS

REF: STATE 147155

1. EMBASSY QUERIED TREDINICK, DEPARTMENT MINERALS AND ENERGY, ON PRIORITY BASIS FOR DATE REQUESTED REFTEL ON VOLUME OF AUSTRALIAN STOCKS OF CRUDE OIL AND MAJOR PRODUCTS. TREDINICK SAID INFORMATION COULD NOT BE PROVIDED UNTIL EARLY NEXT WEEK BUT DID CONFIRM THAT GOA HAS, BARRING DEFENSE EMERGENCY, NO CONSTITUTIONAL POWER TO INCREASE PRESENT INVENTORIES.

2. SEPARATELY EMBASSY CONFIDENTIALLY POSED SAME QUESTIONS TO INDUSTRY SOURCE, WHICH PROVIDED FOLLOWING: AS OF LAST JUNE 30, TOTAL INDUSTRY BULK STORAGE CAPACITY WAS 2,282.5 MILLION IMPERIAL GALLONS, INCLUDING 555.8 FOR CRUDE AND 1,726.7 FOR REFINED PRODUCTS. NO FIGURES AVAILABLE ON PRESENT STOCKS OR ON AVERAGE STOCK LEVELS. THIS CAPACITY IS PURELY PRIVATELY OWNED AND DOES NOT INCLUDE STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OWNED OPERATIONAL RESERVES, WHICH ARE NOT LARGE. FYI, AUSTRALIA'S FY72 REFINERY PRODUCTION TOTALLED 6,494.3 MILLION IMPERIAL GALLONS, INCLUDING REFINERY FUEL AS WELL AS MARKETABLE PRODUCTS; CONSUMPTION: 7,006.5; IMPORTS: 2,410.9 OF CRUDE AND 950.4 OF PRODUCTS; AND EXPORTS: 604.7 OF CRUDE AND

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PRODUCTS.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: IN VIEW MINERALS AND ENERGY
MINISTER CONNOR'S DEEP SUSPICIONS ON OECD OIL IMPORT
SHARING DISCUSSIONS, TREDINICK MAY BE LESS THAN FORTH-
COMING IN SUPPLYING REQUESTED STOCK FIGURES. HOWEVER
EMBASSY WILL REPORT DATE MADE AVILABLE. GOA HAS NO
STRATEGIC RESERVE AND RELIES ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON
PRIVATE COMPANIES' STORAGE CAPACITY.
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